

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

TREASURY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO CINCPAC

USSAGE

COGARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 054503

COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/ATAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT:MARCH 11 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

IN STATEMENT TO NEWSMEN SHORTLY BEFORE SENATE PASSED
RESOLUTION ASKING ADMIN ASSURE AT LEAST HALF OF RICE SENT
CAMBODIA BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR FREE, HUMANITARIAN
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DISTRIBUTION, SEN SCOTT (PA.) SAID US SHOULD USE PRESSURE
TO GET CHANGE IN GKR LEADERSHIP (CSM). AIDE LATER SAID
SCOTT MEANT CHANGE TO INCLUDE LON NOL, BUT DID NOT WANT
MENTION MARSHAL BY NAME. MANSFIELD STATED IF LON NOL

AND TOP OFFICIALS LEFT CAMBODIA, PEACE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING, SINCE SEN BELIEVES SIHANOUK WILL TALK TO THOSE IN LOWER BRACKETS. SCOTT'S CALL FOR LON NOL'S RESIGNATION SEEN SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURE FROM WH POSITION. BOTH SCOTT, MANSFIELD SAID LON NOL'S SUPPORTERS SHOULD BE RESETTLED ELSEWHERE TO PREVENT BLOOD-BATH. WH'S NESSEN SAID USG FEELS CAMBODIANS MUST DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES WHETHER TO KEEP LON NOL IN OFFICE, AND THAT PRES CONCLUDED FROM REPORTS THAT GKR HAS REASONABLE CHANCE OF SURVIVAL UNTIL RAINY SEASON WITH REQUESTED AID, NONE WITHOUT IT (PHINQ). SCOTT MADE CLEAR HE SPOKE FOR SELF AND NOT FOR ADMIN. CHURCH, PEARSON REPORTEDLY DRAFTING COMPROMISE PLAN TO

PHASE OUT GKR AID; SCOTT SAID WOULD SUPPORT ANY REASONABLE COMPROMISE (NYDN BUREAU).

NYT'S FINNEY NOTES SCOTT'S "BREAK" WITH ADMIN POLICY, SAYS SEN WAS ADMIN SUPPORTER ON INDOCHINA BUT IN RECENT WEEKS HAS BEEN "KEEPING HIS OWN COUNCIL" ON PATH TO PURSUE. MANSFIELD, HUMPHREY ALSO URGE LON NOL RESIGNATION, WITH FORMER POINTING TOWARD COALITION WHOSE COMPOSITION WOULD BE DICTATED LARGELY BY SIHANOUK; HUMPHREY WANTING US WITHDRAWAL SO KHMER FACTIONS COULD WORK OUT TRUCE; AND SCOTT ENVISIONING CREATION OF TRANSITION GOVT THAT WOULD CONTINUE GETTING US SUPPORT.

BOTH SFRSUBC AND HFAC WILL HOLD SESSIONS ON AID TO CAMBODIA TODAY (WP). HAC APPROVED 2.5 BILLION DOL FOREIGN AID APPROPRIATION FOR FY 75 CONTAINING NO GKR MIL AID. HOUSE SCHEDULED VOTE ON MEASURE THURS. GKR EMERGENCY MIL AID GOING THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS, WITH HFAC, SFRC CONSIDERING AUTHORIZATION. HAC BILL INCLUDES 440 MILLION FOR ECON POSTWAR AID TO CAMBODIA, SVN AND LAOS (AP, SUN; PHINQ). HOUSE DEM CAUCUS WILL VOTE ON RESOLUTION OPPOSING FURTHER MIL AID TO EITHER SVN OR GKR. HEAVY VOTE AGAINST MIL AID WOULD END HOPE OF HOUSE APPROVAL, WHILE CLOSE VOTE WOULD GIVE CHANCE FOR PASSAGE (AP, SUN; NYDN BUREAU). UNCLASSIFIED

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DOS REPORTED TO HAVE TURNED DOWN PROPOSAL BY EMBASSY PP TO TRY MAKE DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH LOCAL COMMUNISTS LAST SPRING BECAUSE SUCH EFFORT MIGHT HAVE INTERFERED WITH SECRET ATTEMPT START NEGOTIATIONS WITH SIHANOUK. NYT SAYS WAS TOLD HAK AT TIME PLANNED LAOTIAN-STYLE GOVT HEADED BY PRINCE. EFFORT APPARENTLY DISCUSSED WITH PRC DEPPREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING AT UN IN APR 74. NOT MADE CLEAR WHY EFFORT NOT INCLUDED IN FACT SHEET PROVIDED LAST WEEK (NYT SPECIAL; EXCERPTED IN SUN). IN PEKING, SIHANOUK SAID NO HAK ATTEMPT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM IN LAST FOUR YRS (NYT). SAID HAK HAD COMPOUNDED OFFENSE BY TELLING PRC OFFICIALS US WOULD NOT ACCEPT KHMER ROUGE GOVT BECAUSE THEY WERE NVN PUPPETS. IN INTERVIEW, SIHANOUK

SAID WOULD NEVER ACCEPT COMPROMISE; DISMISSED PRES' ARGUMENT THAT THERE WOULD BE PP BLOOD-BATH IF INSURGENTS CAPTURE CITY SINCE WOULD ONLY EXECUTE 7: LON NOL, LONG BORET, SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ, SIRIK MATAK, IN TAM, CHENG HENG, AND SON NGOC THANH (GLOBE AND MAIL'S BURNS, NYT).

LAT'S LESLIE IN PP (3/10) REPORTS LON NOL SQUELCHED RUMORS HE FLED. CONSIDERS RUMOR INDICATIVE OF TENSION IN CITY (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE 3/10). INFORMED SOURCES SAY SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ SUBMITTED RESIGNATION MAR 11, BUT NOT IMMEDIATELY

KNOWN WHETHER LON NOL HAS ACCEPTED IT. SOURCES SAY SUCCESSOR EXPECTED TO BE LT GEN SAK SUTSAKHAN (REUTER PP).

CIA DIRECTOR COLBY REPORTEDLY TOLD HOUSE MEMBERS MONDAY HE IS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT GKR ABILITY TO SURVIVE EVEN WITH MORE US AID (LYONS, WP, FINNEY, NYT; IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

NYT'S SCHANBERG IN PP NOTES CITY SHAKEN BY BOTH SHELLING AND RUMORS OF SURRENDER (EXCERPTED IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). NYT'S ANDELMAN, ALSO IN PP, WRITES THAT NEW US PROGRAM FAILS TO EASE RICE SCARCITY IN CITY (EXCERPTED IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). WP'S FENTON IN PP NOTES CAMBODIA'S "RICE BOWL," BATTAMBANG PROV, HAS GRADUALLY FALLEN TO COMMUNISTS AND IS IN DANGER OF BEING TAKEN OVER COMPLETELY (EXCERPTED IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). CHITRIB'S YATES IN UNCLASSIFIED

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PP DESCRIBES LIFE IN CITY'S "ROCKET BELT," WHERE NIGHT-MARES ARE REAL. GLOBE'S STORIN (3/8) ALSO TELLS OF HORROR OF ROCKET ATTACKS. BELIEVES ONLY OBJECTIVE CAN BE TERROR. STORIN (3/10) DEPICTS GRIM LIFE OF 3500 REFUGEES CROWDED INTO HALF-FINISHED PP LUXURY HOTEL ON MEKONG BANKS. NYDN CARRIES LARGE CENTERFOLD UPI PHOTO OF KHMER MOTHER FEEDING CHILD INJURED IN PP ROCKET ATTACK.

POCHENTONG PUMMELED BY 56 ARTILLERY ROUNDS AND ROCKETS BUT AIRLIFT CONTINUES. PASSENGER DC-3 SET AFIRE (AP SUN, NYDN; WP; CHITRIB). MIL SOURCES REPORT FANK OPERATION AGAINST "ROCKET BELT" 5 MILES NW OF POCHENTONG REMAINED STALLED BY HEAVY ENEMY FIRE FOR 5TH DAY (AP, NYDN; WP). MCCOMBS (WP 3/9) DESCRIBES US AIRLIFT PLAYING "CAT-AND-MOUSE" WITH ENEMY TO BRING IN RICE, FUEL AND AMMO. SEES PP'S ONLY LIFELINE AS ENORMOUSLY FRAGILE AND RISKY OPERATION WITH FIELD UNDER FIRE.

DOS ACCUSES NVN OF GROSS VIOLATION OF C-F, SAYS 50,000 TROOPS MOVED INTO SVN SINCE JAN. SPOKESMAN FUNSETH TELLS NEWSMEN INTELL INDICATES CONTINUED HEAVY

OFFENSIVE ACTIONS (AP, NYT). NYT'S MARKHAM IN SAIGON REPORTS ON BITTER BATTLES AND HIGH LEVEL OF FIGHTING IN HIGHLANDS (EXCERPTED IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). GVN DEFENDERS CLING TO ROOFTOPS TO FIGHT COMMUNIST TROOPS IN BAN ME THUOT. NVA OVERRUNS TWO DISTRICT TOWNS IN QUANG TRI PROV. MIL SOURCES SAY NVA HAS ALL BUT CAPTURED BAN ME THUOT, AND 14 FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING 9 AMERICANS, TRAPPED BUT SAFE THERE (CHITRIB).

US EMBASSY OFFICIAL AND 8 US AND CANADIAN MISSIONARIES

TRAPPED IN BAN ME THUOT, ACCORDING FIELD REPORTS. ALL ROADS CUT, 1 AIRFIELD REPORTEDLY CAPTURED AND OTHER UNDER ATTACK. US OFFICIAL IDENTIFIED AS PAUL STRUHARIK OF AID WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF REFUGEE PROGRAM. MISSIONARIES ARE WITH CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY ALLIANCE. GVN FONMIN CALLS ATTACK "BLATANT VIOLATION" OF C-F (AP NYDN, SUN). CHRISTIAN MISSION ALLIANCE HQ IN NYACK UNCLASSIFIED

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REPORTED US EMBASSY COPTER WOULD TRY EVACUATE AMERICANS FROM BAN ME THUOT AND OTHER POINTS IN AREA (AP, NYT). SOURCES SAID EMBASSY DECIDED AGAINST COPTER EVACUATION ATTEMPT BECAUSE OF HEAVY FIGHTING AND AA GUNS RINGING CITY, BUT SITUATION WILL BE REASSESSED MAR 12 (AP NYDN, SUN).

WP'S MCCOMBS IN SAIGON (ABRIDGED IN PHINQ)REPORTS INTENSIVE FIGHTING IN HIGHLANDS WITH BAN ME THUOT UNDER SIEGE, TWO DISTRICT TOWNS UNDER ATTACK, INTENSIVE FIGHTING ON ROAD THAT LINKS PLEIKU WITH QUINHON, AND ALSO IN QUANG TRI PROV. COMMENTS THAT FIGHTING IN NORTH SEEN AS MAINLY DIVERSIONARY BY ANALYSTS, WITH MAIN THRUST IN HIGHLANDS WITH APPARENT GOAL TO OPEN NEW SUPPLY CORRIDOR INTO REGION JUST N OF SAIGON. DISCUSSES IMPORTANCE OF BAN ME THUOT, AND PRESENCE OF TRAPPED AMERICANS. FALL OF BAN ME THUOT WOULD OPEN UP QUANG DUC PROV TO SOUTH.

CSM'S GODSELL CONSIDERS MEANING OF "PHASE 2" OFFENSIVE AGAINST BAN ME THUOT, WITH ANALYSTS CONSIDERING IT PART OF PROBING PATTERN, AIMED AT FORCING THIEU OUT, OR AS PRELUDE TO DRAMATIC POLITICAL PROPOSAL (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). SUN'S CORDDRY DISCUSSES NEW ATTACKS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE AS POSSIBLY HEAVIER PHASE OF HANOI'S DRY-SEASON OFFENSIVE (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). DREW MIDDLETON IN NYT (3/10) QUOTES ANALYSTS THAT HANOI PUSHING CAMPAIGN IN SVN AND NOT DIVERTING SUPPLIES TO PP AREA, AND BELIEVED TO HAVE ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES FOR SVN UNDER CONSIDERATION. ONE COURSE WOULD BE WIDENING WAR AT LOCAL LEVEL TO ERODE ARVN MORALE. NEW FIGHTING MAY BE AIMED AT CUTTING LOCS

AND SEIZING PROV CAPITALS TO FORCE SVN COMMIT LARGE FORCES TO HIGHLANDS AND BREAK UP LARGE MIL UNITS. NOTES INDOCHINA WAR HAS CENTERED ON ATTACKS ON ROADS TO FEED FURTHER OFFENSIVES.

ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE IS TO LAUNCH LARGE-SCALE OFFENSIVE AS IN 1972, AND NVN BELIEVED TO HAVE SUPPLIES STORED IN SVN TO CONTINUE OFFENSIVE FOR FROM AT LEAST 6 MOS TO 2 YRS. NOTES TIMING OF MIL ACTION MAY BE AFFECTED BY DIVERSE UNCLASSIFIED

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FACTORS, INCLUDING WEATHER AND US POLITICS. DISCUSSES

FACTORS INVOLVED, GUESSES THEY ARGUE FOR WIDENED WAR AT MEDIUM LEVEL OF INTENSITY IN SVN, AIMED AT PROV CAPITALS. THINKS HANOI BELIEVES IT ALREADY HAS WON IN CAMBODIA, AND FALL OF PP MAY BE PSYCHOLOGICAL BLOW TO GVN AND SO DESIRABLE TO NVN. QUOTES ANALYSTS THAT BOTH KHMER INSURGENTS AND NVA SEEM TO HAVE DIFFICULTY EXERCISING COMMAND AND CONTROL OVER LARGE FORCES IN ACTION, WHICH ANOTHER REASON MANY THINK NVA WILL OPT FOR STRATEGY OF WIDESPREAD, MEDIUM LEVEL OPERATIONS RATHER THAN MAJOR OFFENSIVE.

NVN PORTS AGAIN REGULAR STOPS FOR USSR MERCHANT MARINE, WITH MANY AS 8 MEDIUM-SIZED VESSELS ON WAY TO OR FROM NVN WITHIN 1 WEEK IN FEB. SOME LOADED COAL FOR EXPORT, WHILE OTHERS BROUGHT CARGO IN FROM AUSTRALIA, NK, FRG AND USSR (WOHL, CSM).

2. JAPAN

CSM (TOKYO) NOTES HIGH-LEVEL ECONOMIC MISSION "TO POUR OIL ON UNTROUBLED WATERS," IN WASHINGTON TODAY. NO MAJOR BILATERAL TRADE PROBLEMS, BUT JAPANESE "NERVOUS" ABOUT HAK CALL FOR OIL IMPORT REDUCTIONS BY INDUSTRIAL NATIONS. WISH EXPLAIN JAPAN'S "ELASTICITY DEMAND" FOR OIL, AND CONSUMPTION PATTERNS. (PHOTO OF MISSION LEADER, NORISHIGE HASEGAWA, PRES SUMITOMO CHEMICAL.)

NYT'S JONES FINDS MISSION "PLEASANTLY SURPRISED" BY BUSINESSMEN'S OPTIMISM ABOUT US ECONOMIC TURNAROUND; TOLD NEW YORKERS MONDAY THEY EXPECT GOJ EASE TIGHT MONEY POLICY "IN NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE." (PHOTO OF MISSION MEMBERS HASEGAWA, MITSUI AND CO CHAIRMAN EIICHI HASEGAWA, FORMER AMB TO CANADA SHINICHI KONDO.)

WP'S SHARKEY SAYS MISSION PLANS DISCUSS CLOSE BILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION" IN WASHINGTON TODAY "THROUGH THE REST OF THIS DECADE." MET BUSINESSMEN IN HOUSTON, ATLANTA, NY; NOW MEET OFFICIALS AT DOS, COMMERCE,

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TREASURY, FEA, AND CONGRESSMEN INVOLVED IN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

JOC NOTES ICC LOST SIX-YEAR BOUT WITH JAPAN LINE IN US DISTRICT COURT, OVER "NO COMPENSATION" FREIGHT FORWARDING FROM WEST COAST PORT TO CHICAGO VIA RAIL. ICC CLAIMED JURISDICTION BUT COURT RULED JAPAN LINE CHARGES NO FEE FOR DISTRIBUTION, FOUND NO EVIDENCE USED FORWARDING SERVICE TO BARGAIN WITH SHIPPERS. ICC HAS 60 DAYS FOR NEXT MOVE.

JOC (TOKYO) BELIEVES BANK OF JAPAN MAY "SOON" HALT MASSIVE INTERVENTION IN TOKYO EXCHANGE MART WHEN US DOLLAR DROPS BELOW 280 YEN. CITES BOJ OFFICIAL TELLING OSAKA BUSINESSMEN MONDAY IMPOSSIBLE KEEP WEAKENING DOLLAR ABOVE 280 YEN. DROP WILL MAKE EXPORTS LESS COMPETITIVE IN US.

JOC'S CULLISON IN TOKYO NOTES TWO FIRMS CONTRACT TO IMPORT ABOUT 8 MILLION TONS CRUDE OIL FROM CHINA THIS YEAR; SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE TOTAL MAY CLIMB TO 15 MILLION TONS NEXT YEAR.

NYT'S BUTTERFIELD IN TOKYO SAYS JAL LOST AT LEAST 126 MILLION DOLS LAST YEAR, LARGEST DEFICIT ANY INTL CARRIER, FIRST FOR FLAG CARRIER SINCE 1962. CRITICS BLAME "BUREAUCRATIC MANAGEMENT" BUT JAL EXEC CITES POLITICAL FACTORS, RISING FUEL COSTS, PASSENGER DECLINE DUE RECESSION. ADDS JAL, UNLIKE COMPETITORS IN RED, ADDED STAFF, BOUGHT THREE NEW 747S LAST YEAR, PLAN BUY THREE MORE NEXT YEAR.

NYT REPORTS TANAKA ASSESSED 140,300 DOLS ADDITIONAL PERSONAL INCOME TAXES, PENALTIES FOR PAST THREE YEARS. TAX OFFICE SAYS UNDER-REPORTING RESULTED FROM DIFFERENCE IN INTERPRETATION OF RULES.

3. PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINE NAVY BLOCKADES BASILAN ISLAND TO KEEP SUPPLIES FROM 4,000 REBELS MASSING FOR POSSIBLE
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SUMMER OFFENSIVE, ACCORDING GOP SPOKESMAN. LIGHT PLANES HITTING AREA AS GOVT FORCES ESTABLISH "STRATEGIC DEFENSIVE POSITIONS" (CHITRIB).

4. THAILAND

JOC (LONDON) CITES AGRA-EUROPE REPORT THAILAND LOST ABOUT 400,000 TONS PADDY RICE IN FLOODS, REDUCING 1974-75 RICE YIELD TO 14;1 MILLION TONS, LIMITING EXPORTS.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

5. INDOCHINA

ANTHONY LAKE IN POST (3/9) SAYS AID WILL ONLY PROLONG KILLING (SEE WIRELESS FILE).

SEN. ALAN CRANSTON IN LATIMES (3/9) SAYS INVOLVEMENT

IN CAMB FUTILE AND IMMORAL (SEE WIRELESS FILE).

ROBERT DONOVAN IN LATIMES (3/9) DEVOTES COLUMN TO INTERVIEW WITH HABIB WHO SAYS US AID WILL BUY TIME FOR TASK (AIRMAILED BY USIA).

DAVID WILSON IN BOSTGLOBE (3/10) SAYS FALL OF DOMINOS BEING OVERLOOKED IN US. HOWEVER US RESOURCES NO LONGER ABLE TO SUSTAIN CONTINUED INVOLVEMENT IN SEASIA. OUR REACH CAN NO LONGER EXCEED OUR GRASP.

WILLIAM RUSHER (3/10) PHINQ, SAYS CONGRESS HAS NO BUSINESS DECIDING FOREIGN POLICY. SAYS WHEN DOMINOS FALL CONGRESSIONAL DOVES WILL FEEL THEIR VIEW OF HISTORY HAS BEEN RATIFIED. IF CAMBODIA FALLS IT WILL BE "CROWNING EXAMPLE" OF WHAT HAPPENS WHEN CONGRESS TRIES TO RUN FOREIGN POLICY.

JAMES KILPATRICK SEES ARGUMENTS AGAINST FURTHER US AID TO INDOCHINA RESTING UPON TWO PREMISES THAT CANNOT BE ACCEPTED UNLESS WE'RE PREPARED TO ACCEPT UNCLASSIFIED

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DECLINE OF WEST AND ASCENDANCY OF COMMUNIST POWER THROUGHOUT WORLD. FIRST PREMISE IS THAT STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN FREEDOM, BEYOND OUR OWN BORDERS, IS NONE OF OUR BUSINESS; SECOND IS THAT EVEN IF WE MAKE IT OUR BUSINESS TO ACCEPT COMMITMENTS TO FREEDOM, OUR COMMITMENTS MUST BE LIMITED (SUN MAR 9).

WM BUCKLEY (WSTAR MAR 7) HITS ANTHONY LEWIS' "LINE" IN NYT COLUMNS THAT INDOCHINA TROUBLES TODAY RESULT FROM THIEU FAILURE TO ABIDE BY C-F TERMS. CONTENTS IT REQUIRES SOMETHING "NOT VERY FAR SHORT OF PERVERSITY" TO SUGGEST HANOI HAS LIVED UP TO ITS SIDE OF BARGAIN; DOCUMENTATION OF NVN FAILURE TO ABIDE BY C-F "IS AS COPIOUS AS IT IS BLOODY."

USIA WIRELESS FILE EXCERPTS NYT'S INSISTENCE THAT US HAS NO DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO GKR, AND WP CALL ON CAMBODIA INSURGENTS TO STATE THEIR TERMS, IN WAKE OF LON NOL'S OFFER TO STEP ASIDE, FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

GKR EMBASSY PRESS/INFO ATTACHE PROTESTS TO NYT THAT ITS RECENT EDITORIALS ON "KHMER SITUATION HAVE ADVOCATED CAPITULATION BY MY GOVERNMENT." URGES US NOT ABANDON CONTINUING STRUGGLE OF SMALL NATIONS TO ESCAPE COMMUNIST TYRANNY.

IN ANALYSIS OF PRES FORD'S MAR 6 NEWS CONFERENCE, LAT'S ABRAMSON SEES HIM ENCOURAGING CONCLUSION THAT IF GKR CAPITULATES, IT WILL BE CONGRESS' FAULT. SUGGESTS FORD UNDOUBTEDLY HAS OTHER THAN HUMANITARIAN REASONS FOR THROWING HIS PRESTIGE BEHIND ANOTHER UNPOPULAR INDOCHINA WAR-APPROPRIATION REQUEST -- "HE DOES NOT WANT TO BE REMEMBERED" AS PRES WHO LET "SINKING ALLY GO IT ALONE," AND HE MUST THINK ABOUT CREDIBILITY HIS PERSONAL COMMITMENTS WILL HAVE IN DEALINGS WITH OTHER LEADERS. PRES GAVE NO HINT HE HAS STRATEGY OTHER THAN OLD ONE US FOLLOWED THROUGH DISASTROUS INDOCHINA EXPERIENCE (MAR 9). KNIGHT NEWS SERVICE'S MCCARTNEY (GLOBE MAR 9) OBSERVES THAT OVERALL, CAMBODIA STORY SINCE 1970 US INCURSION TO "CLEAR OUT" COMMUNIST "SANCTUARIES" HAS BEEN STORY UNCLASSIFIED

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OF SERIES OF MISPERCEPTIONS, FALSE PREDICTIONS, UNACHIEVED PROMISES. NOTHING HAS GONE ACCORDING TO PLAN IN CAMBODIA, US MUST FACE REALITY THAT IT BROUGHT WAR TO COUNTRY THAT HAD BEEN AT PEACE. CONTENTS ISSUE NOW NOT WHETHER CAMBODIA WILL FALL, BUT WHEN AND UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES.

6. CHINA

LAT (MAR 9) CARRIES EXCERPT OF LUCIAN PYE "FOREIGN POLICY" ARTICLE ASKING MORE REALISM IN WAY US AND PRC TREAT EACH OTHER. NOTES PEKING CONTINUES CHARACTERIZING US AS ONE OF BAD SUPERPOWERS, "SEEKING HEGEMONY"; BUT NO US OFFICIAL "HAS DARED BREATHE" HINT OF CRITICISM PUBLICLY OF ANYTHING PEKING DOES. CHINESE RUDENESS IS DISCOUNTED, SO LONG AS CAN BE SHOWN THEY ARE BEING RUDER TO SOVIET -- BUT US PUBLIC CAN BECOME FED UP WITH SUCH "OFFENSIVE RHETORIC." PRCLO HAS BEEN WELCOMED TO WASHINGTON, ITS MEMBERS ALLOWED ACCESS TO ALL US SOCIETY LEVELS; IN CONTRAST, USLO HAS BEEN "UNCEREMONIOUSLY ISOLATED, AND CHINESE GUARDS HAVE EVEN DENIED ADMISSION" TO COMPOUND TO US CITIZENS SEEKING CONSULAR ASSISTANCE. PEKING HAS HAD LAST WORD IN CULTURAL EXCHANGE FIELD, THOUGH

POSSIBLY MOST REALISTIC PATTERNS OF RELATIONS IS EMERGING IN TRADE AREA. OTHER OBSTACLES TO MORE REALISTIC SINO-US RELATIONS ARE UNCERTAINTY OVER CHINA'S DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS ONCE MAO ERA ENDS, AND STATUS OF SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS.

TO PUT US-CHINESE RELATIONS ON MORE SOLID FOOTING, PYE ADVISES BEGIN TREATING RELATIONS WITH PEKING ON THEIR OWN TERMS AND NOT FUNCTION OF OUR SOVIET POLICY. WE MUST CEASE SWEEPING DISAGREEMENTS WITH PRC UNDER RUG, BUT ALSO CEASE PRESUMING FAULT MUST BE OURS WHEN ANYTHING

GOES WRONG IN US-CHINA RELATIONS.

7. INDONESIA

MACDONALD (SPECIAL TO WP) IN JAKARTA SAYS SUSPICION MOUNTING IN SEA THAT INDONESIA "GEARING UP" TO INVADE UNCLASSIFIED

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PORTUGUESE TIMOR. GOI SOURCES TALK OF HEADING OFF INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT BEFORE BUILDS UP "TOO MUCH STEAM"; SUHARTO SAID APPALLED AT POSSIBILITY INDEPENDENT TIMOR COULD BECOME CUBA OF REGION, HOSTILE TO INDONESIA, AND INFLUENCED BY SOVIET OR CHINA. OBSERVES OVERTURES FOR UNION HEIGHTENED ANTI-INDONESIAN FEELING IN TIMOR, AND NOW SEEMS PRO-INDONESIAN CANDIDATES WILL BE "RESOUNDINGLY TROUNCED" IN ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS PROMISED NEXT YEAR. WHILE MIL EXPERTS BELIEVE INDONESIAN FORCES COULD QUICKLY CAPTURE DILI AND BAUCAU, COMMENTS IMPACT WOULD SEVERELY DAMAGE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF ASEAN, CAUSE WORRY IN BRUNEI, PAPUA-NEW GUINEA, AND "OUTRAGE" AUSTRALIA, NZ.

8. MICRONESIA

WSTAR'S SMITH (MAR 8) FINDS WINDS OF CHANGE STIRRING IN OTHER FIVE MICRONESIA DISTRICTS, AS NORTHERN MARIANAS MOVE TO JOIN US. "EDUCATION FOR SELF GOVERNMENT" PROGRAM CONTINUES PREPARE ISLANDERS FOR JULY CONVENTION IN MICRONESIA'S PROVISIONAL CAPITAL. SAIPAN TO DRAFT CONSTITUTION. BUT WITH MARIANAS' EXAMPLE BEFORE THEM, MARSHALL ISLANDS EXPRESS INTEREST IN DEAL WITH US AND PALAU WRITING CONSTITUTION THAT WOULD PROVIDE VIRTUAL INDEPENDENCE. THUS REMAINING DISTRICTS -- TRUK, PONAPE, YAP -- MAY BE LEFT TO MAKE BEST DEAL WITH US, OR ANOTHER FOREIGN POWER. STATES SUCH "BALKANIZATION" WOULD EXPOSE US TO UN CRITICISM FOR NOT MAINTAINING TRUSTEESHIP AS "VIABLE POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT."

9. THAILAND

NYT STATES MILITARY-CIVILIAN COALITION NOW SHAPING UP IN BANGKOK, EVEN IF ABIDES BY NEW CONSTITUTION, HARDLY "BRAVE NEW WORLD" THAIS THOUGHT THEY WON; IT ALSO TALKING OF US WITHDRAWAL, IN AS FEW AS TWELVE MONTHS, BUT ONLY AFTER OPENING RELATIONS WITH PEKING AND OBTAINING GREAT-POWER GUARANTEE OF SEA NEUTRALITY (USIA WIRELESS FILE 3/11).

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10. PHILIPPINES

PHILA BULLETIN (3/6) DECLARES REFERENDUM WAS "HOLLOW EXERCISE" THAT MERELY DRAMATIZED MARCOS' REFUSAL TO GIVE UP ANY OF ENORMOUS POWER. BELIEVES MARCOS CALLED REFERENDUM TO MOLLIFY CRITICS, INCLUDING US CONGRESSMEN WHO THREATEN TO CUT OFF AID IN PROTEST AGAINST CONTINUING REPRESSION. BUT "LATEST CHARADE" REVEALS MARCOS MORE CONCERNED WITH APPEARANCES, AND UNWILLING TO RELINQUISH REINS UNTIL READY, OR FORCED TO -- NEITHER OF WHICH SEEMS LIKELY AT THIS TIME.

11. KOREA

REUTER'S MACKENZIE IN SEOUL DETECTS "AIR OF POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY" OVER SK ON EVE OF ONE-WEEK SPECIAL ASSEMBLY SESSION THAT OPENS TUESDAY. AND NO INDICATION HOW SERIOUSLY STUDENTS MAY DEMONSTRATE WHEN CLASSES RESUME AFTER THREE-MONTH LONG BREAK, OR HOW ROKG MAY REACT. BUT FOR MOMENT BELIEVES PARK WON LATEST ROUND WITH CRITICS WHEN RC HIERARCHY ISSUED STATEMENT CHURCH WOULD NOT INTERFERE IN STRICTLY POLITICAL MATTERS. ALTHOUGH ONE OPPOSITION POLITICIAN PRIVATELY ADVISES DISSIDENTS "TREAD CAREFULLY" TO BREAK CIRCLE OF "DISSENT AND REPRESSION," NDP SAID PLANNING TO RAISE IN ASSEMBLY ISSUE OF ALLEGED TORTURE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.

LAT'S JAMESON IN SEOUL (3/9) WRITES ABOUT PROBLEMS FACING SK ECONOMY, WHICH SURGED PAST OFFICIAL TARGETS FOR PAST DECADE, BUT "CAN DO LITTLE MORE THAN LIMP THROUGH 1975." EVEN IF ALL GOES WELL, ROK WOULD SUFFER 1.4 BILLION DOL CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT THIS YEAR, AND FOREIGN EXPERTS SAY NATION WILL BE FORCED BORROW HEAVILY ABROAD. CITES ONE US DIPLOMAT THAT "KOREA WILL HAVE A TIGHT 1975, BUT OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO MANAGE." INGERSOLL

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED TO BUDAPEST.

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Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAR 2003 by HageRS>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

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05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
To: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
TREASURY
MOSCOW
BIEN HOA
CAN THO
DANANG

HONG KONG
NHA TRANG
JEC PARIS INFO CINCPAC
USSAGE
COGARD
BUDAPEST BY POUCH
XMT SUVA
RANGOON

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006